



# THE WALKING DEAD

29

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TM



KIRKMAN

ADLARD

RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

# THE WALKING DEAD



TM

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Creator, Writer

**CHARLIE ADLARD**

Penciler, Inker, Cover

**CLIFF RATHBURN**

Gray Tones, Cover Colors, Back Cover

**RUS WOOTON**

Letterer

**Previously:**

Trapped in Woodbury. Rick's right hand has been severed, he's being held in a makeshift infirmary under the racing track Woodbury uses for arena fighting. Michonne is being raped and beaten, tied to the walls of a small storage garage in the same arena. Glenn is a nervous wreck. Things have been better.

**For Image Comics**



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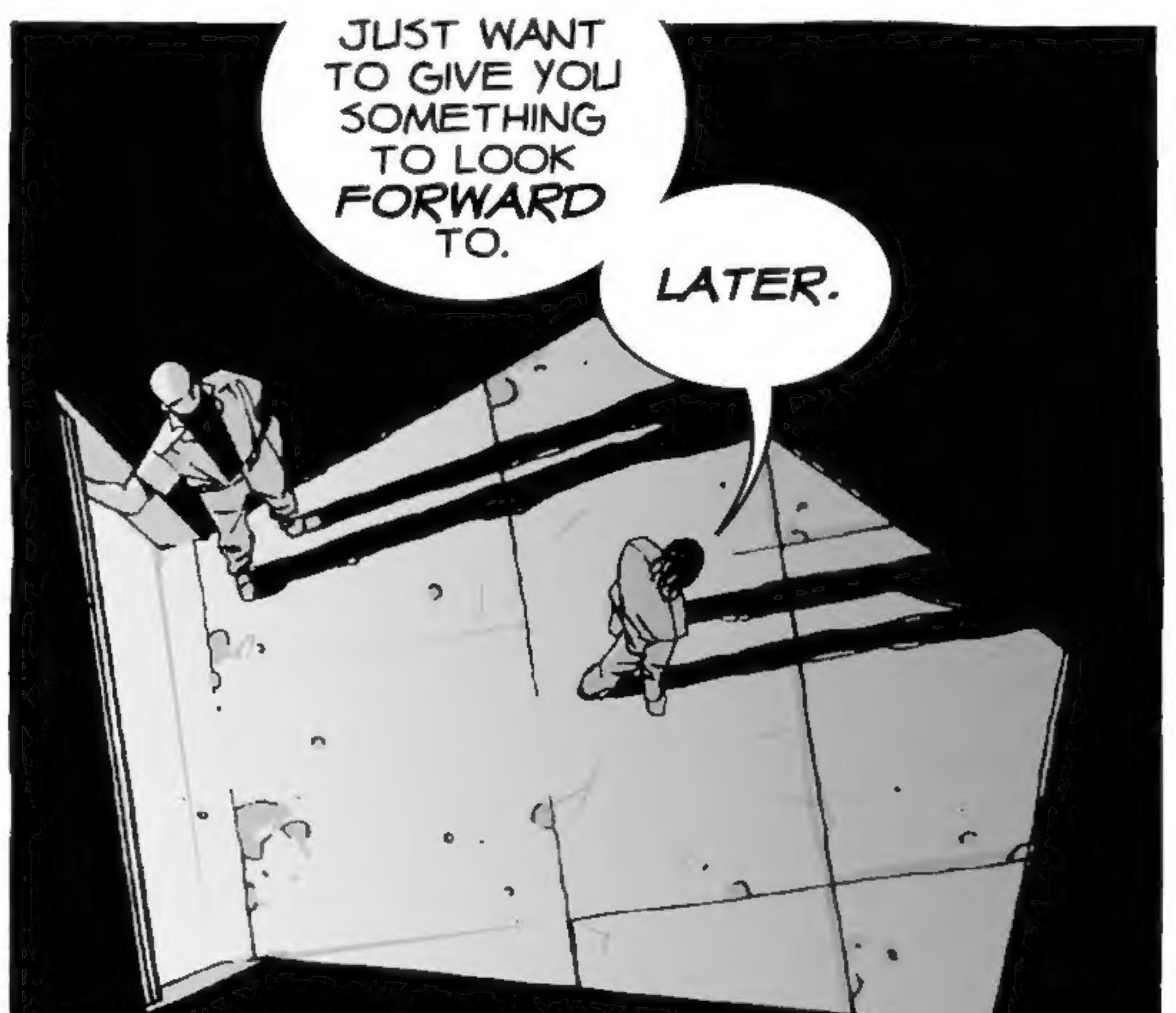
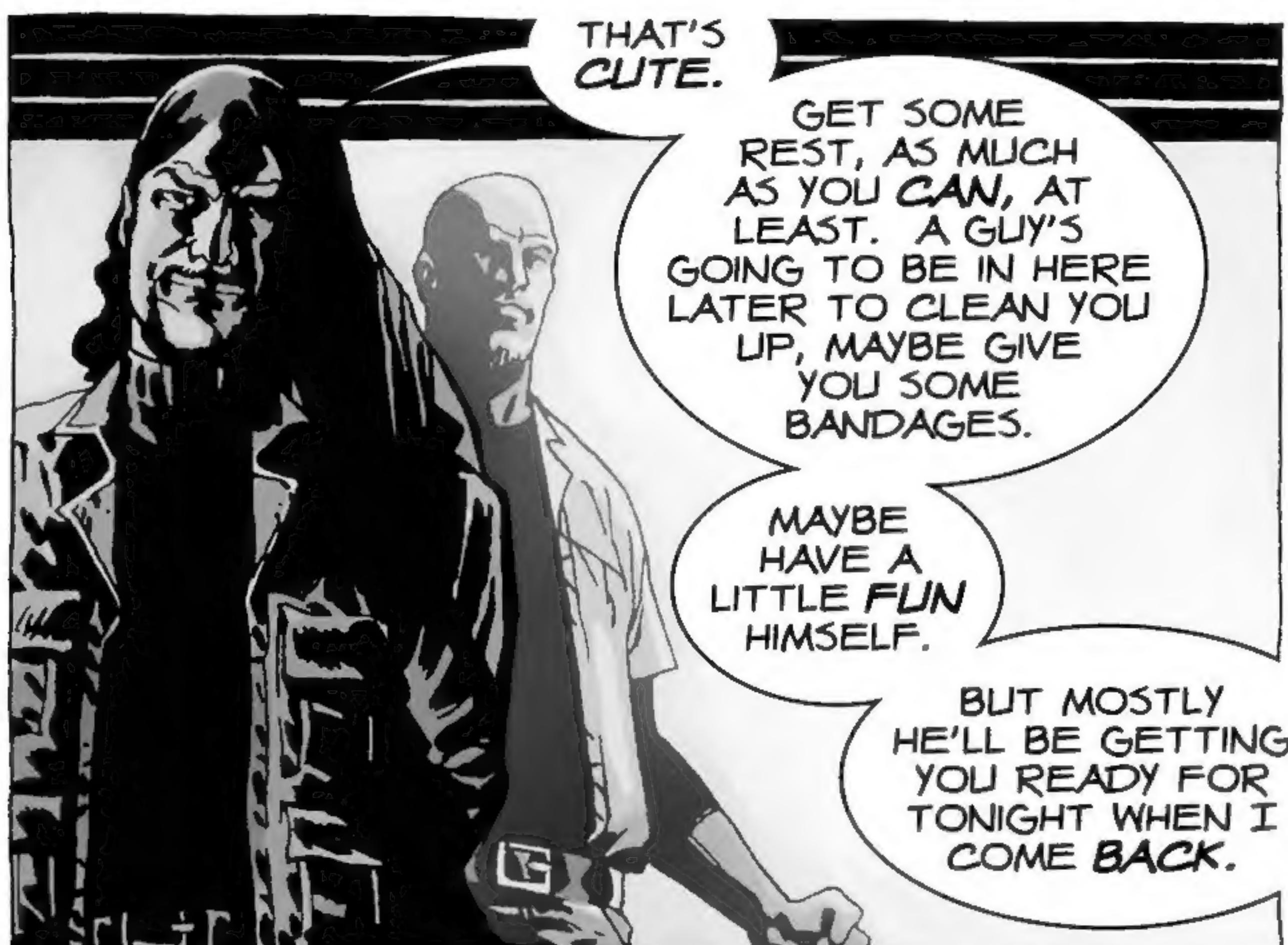
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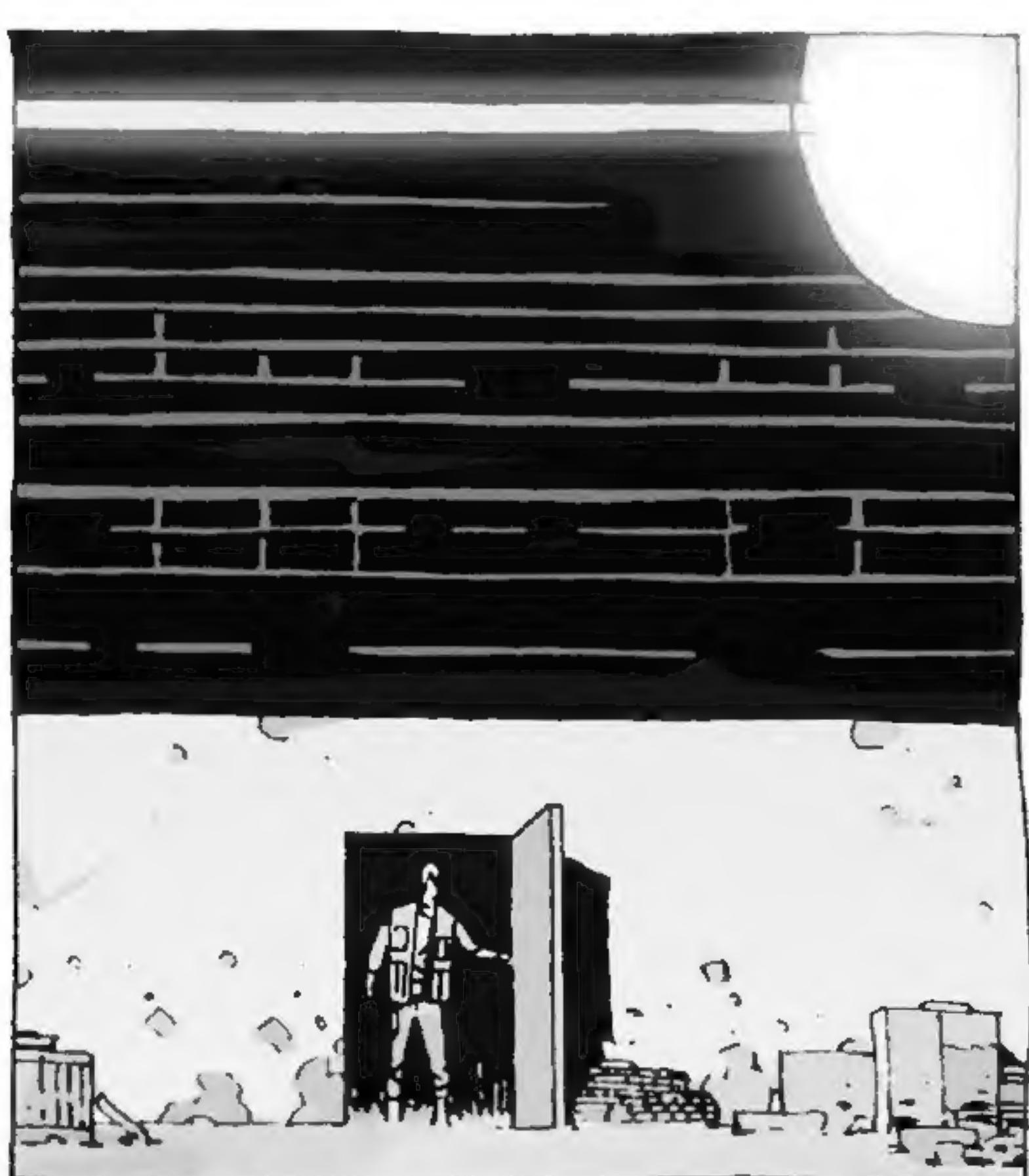


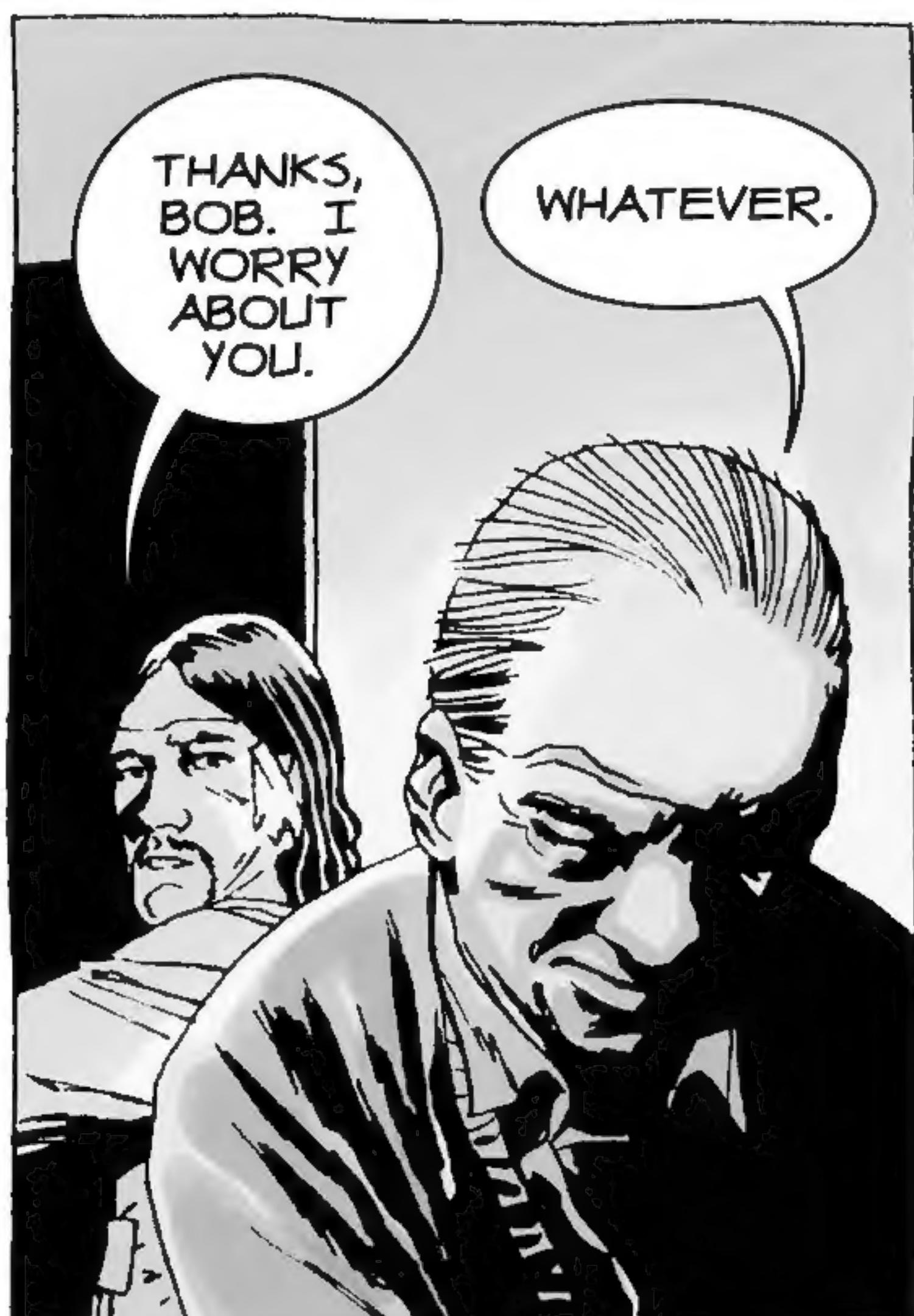
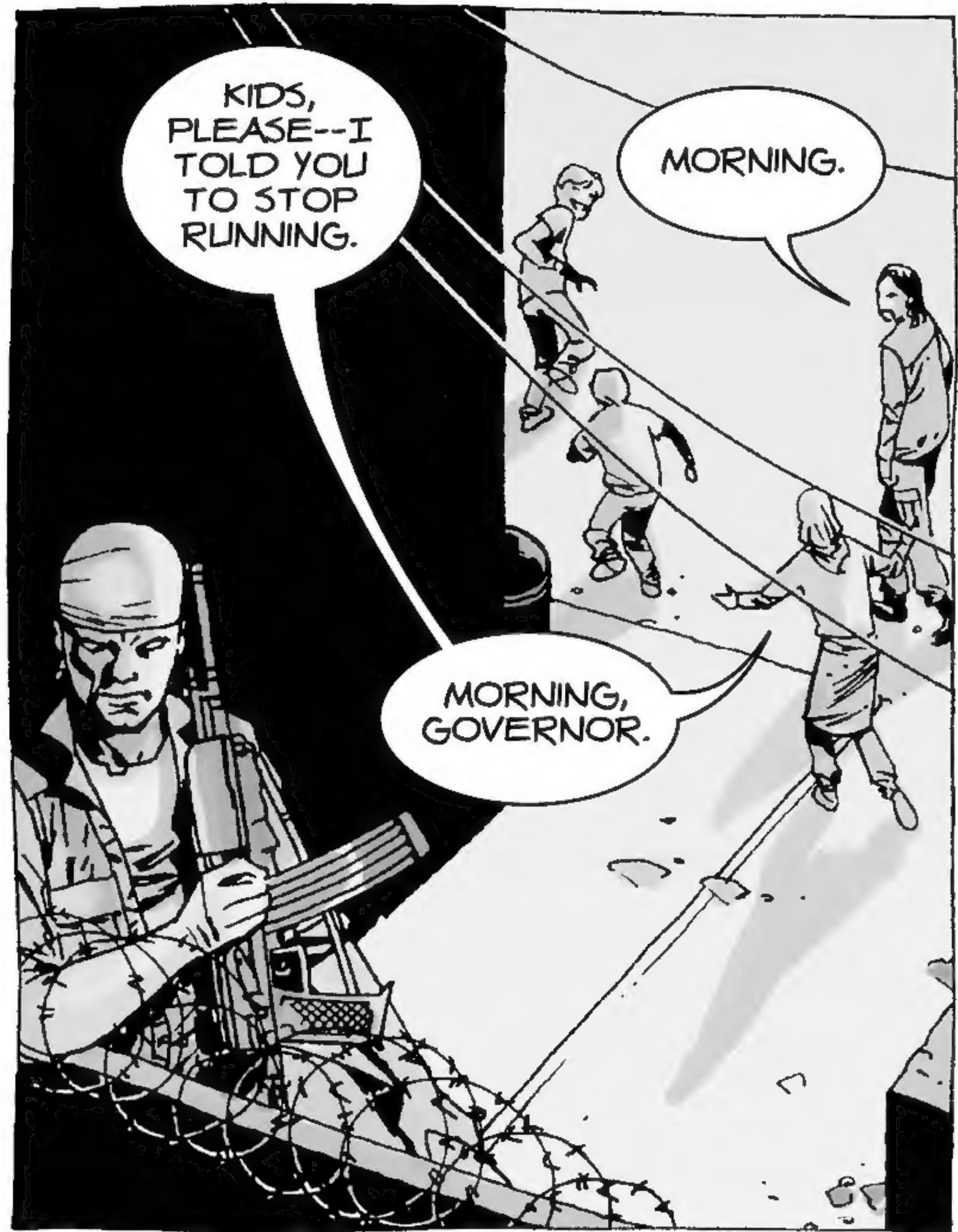


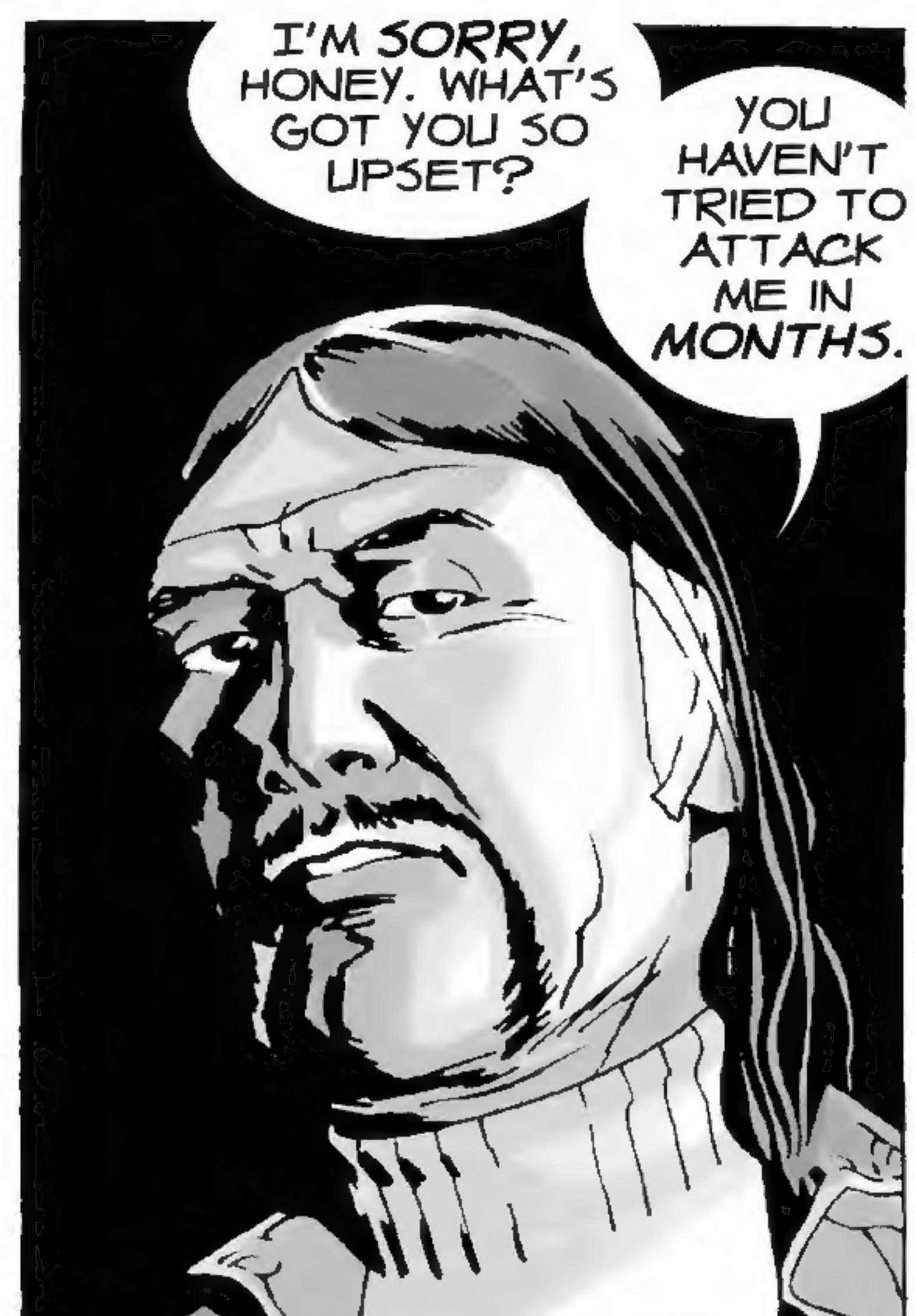


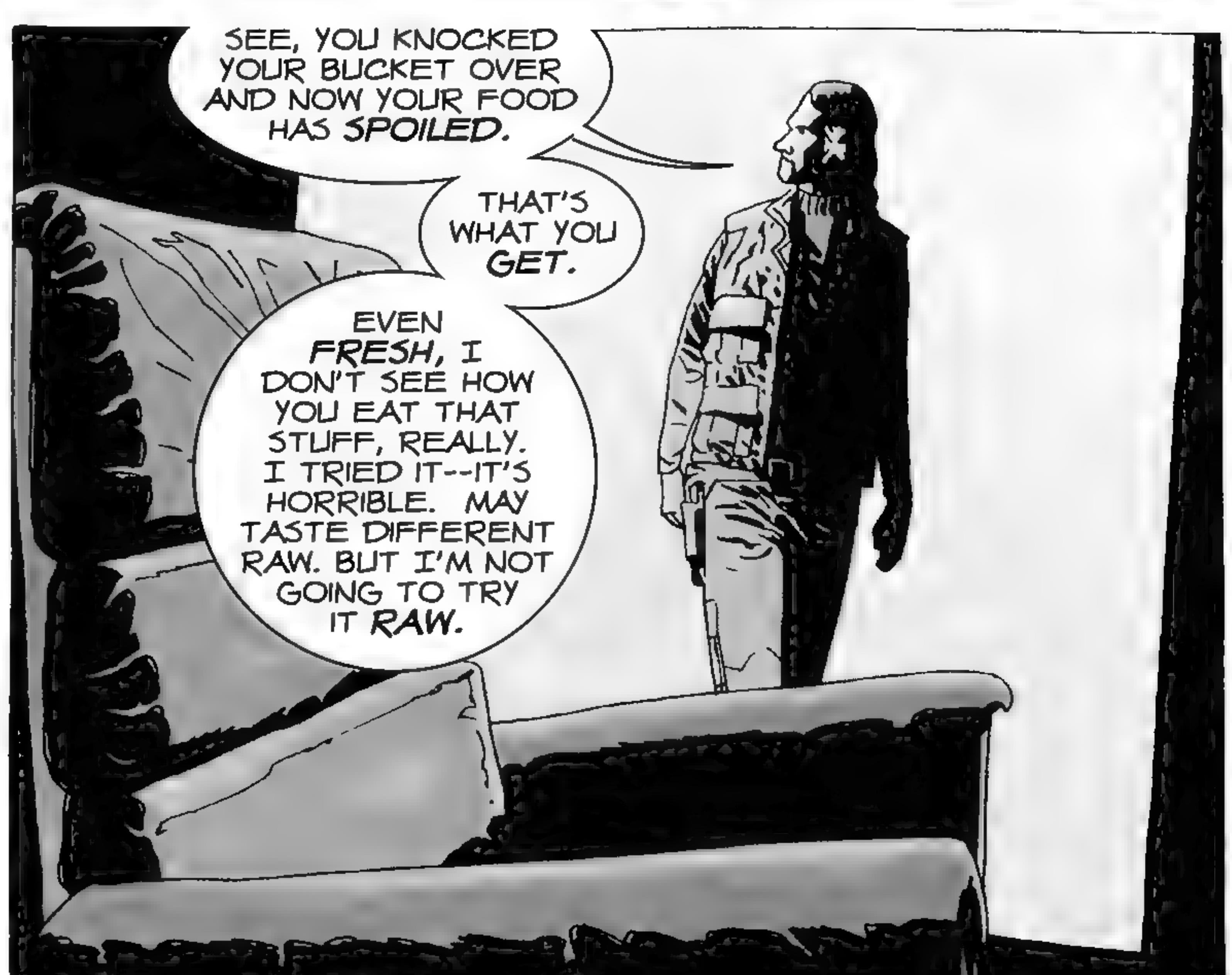
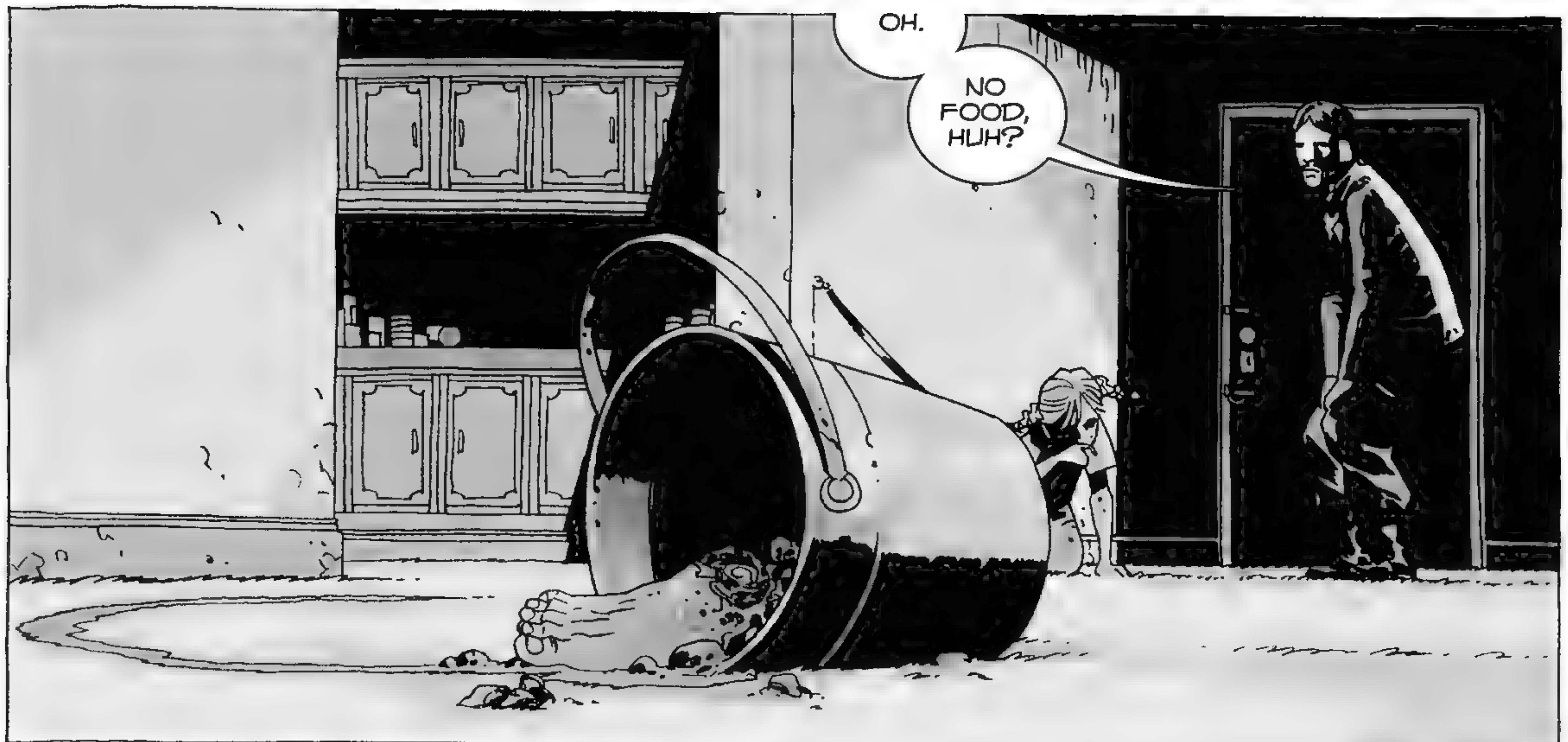
FUCK THIS.  
THE SUN'S  
COMING UP  
ISN'T IT?

I NEED  
TO GET SOME  
*SLEEP.*



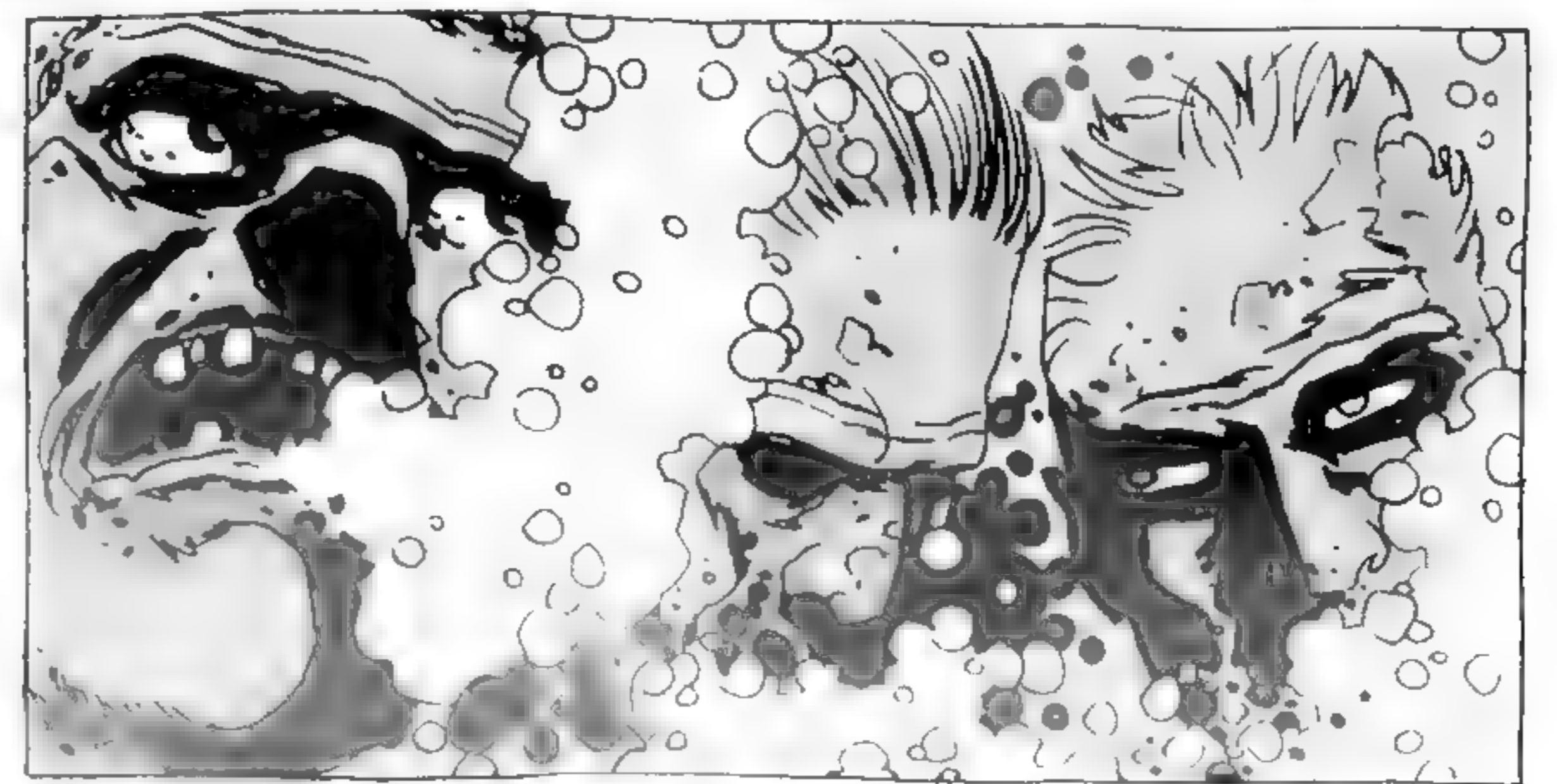


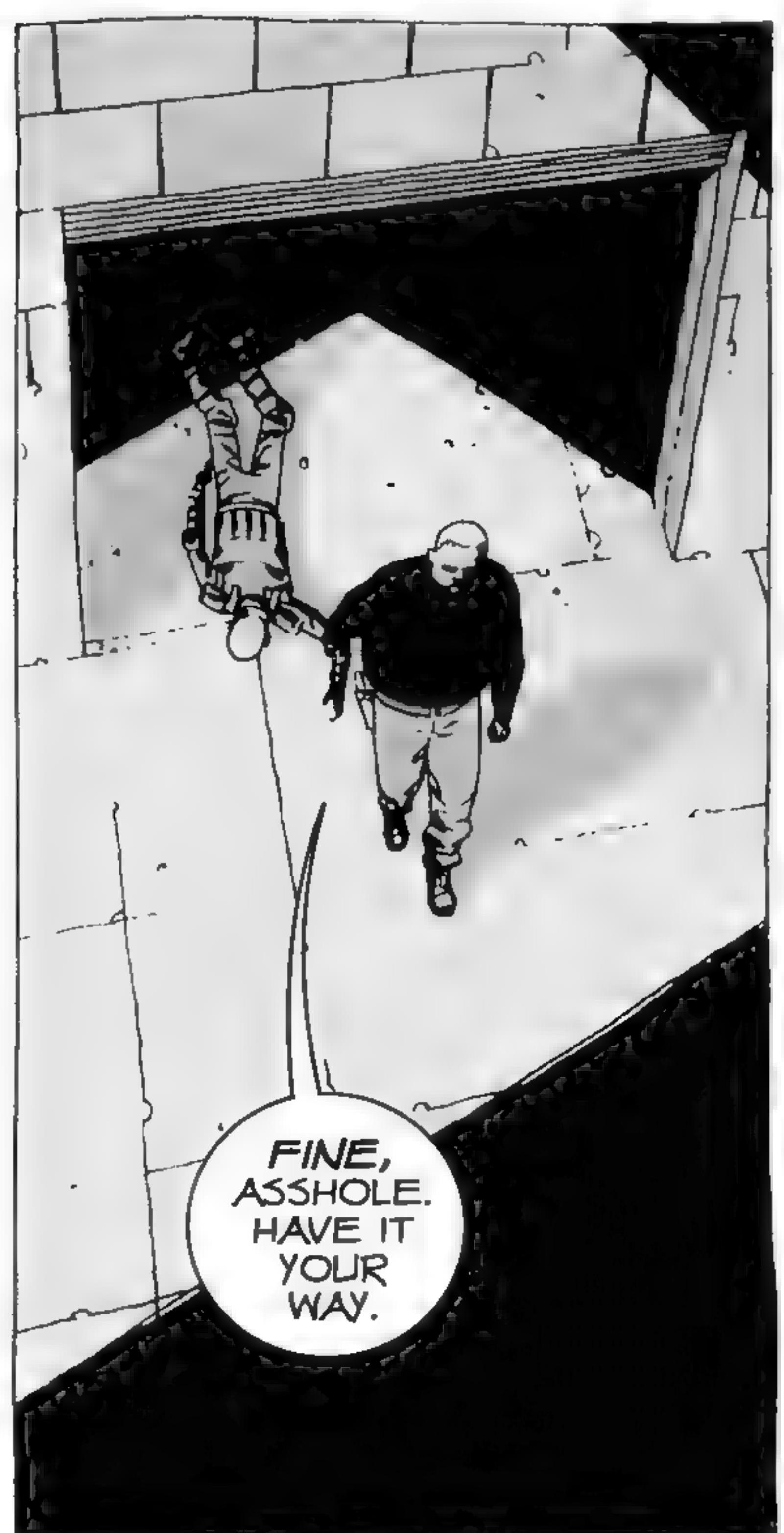












HE GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE?



AIN'T WALKING FOR HIMSELF... BUT HE DIDN'T PUT UP A FIGHT. THINK HE MIGHT'VE PISSED HIMSELF, THOUGH.

Y'KNOW, THAT ARMOR OF HIS AIN'T GOT ANY POLICE MARKINGS ON IT. COULD BE FROM A PRISON.

YEAH? LET'S ASK HIM THAT.

WAKE UP, PRINCESS.

I'VE GOT ALL KINDS OF INTERESTING QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK YOU. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO ASK YOU EVEN ONE OF THEM JUST YET.



I CAN SEE THAT WHAT WE DID TO YOUR FRIEND, RICK, WAS IT? ...HAS AFFECTED YOU A GREAT DEAL. YOU SEEM LIKE YOU COULD BE IN THE RIGHT MIND FOR SOME QUESTIONING.

BUT I REALLY LIKE TO STACK THE DECK IN MY FAVOR.



PAY ATTENTION!!

ARE YOU LISTENING?

WHY?

WHY ARE YOU DOING ALL THIS?

THE SAME REASON ANYBODY DOES ANYTHING... TO GET SOMETHING I WANT.

NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, I'M GOING TO THE CELL NEXT DOOR. JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE THE SCREAMS...

...MICHONNE IS IN THERE. LISTEN CAREFULLY, BUT KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR IT ISN'T GOING TO KILL HER. I CAN ALWAYS COME BACK LATER FOR THAT, THOUGH.

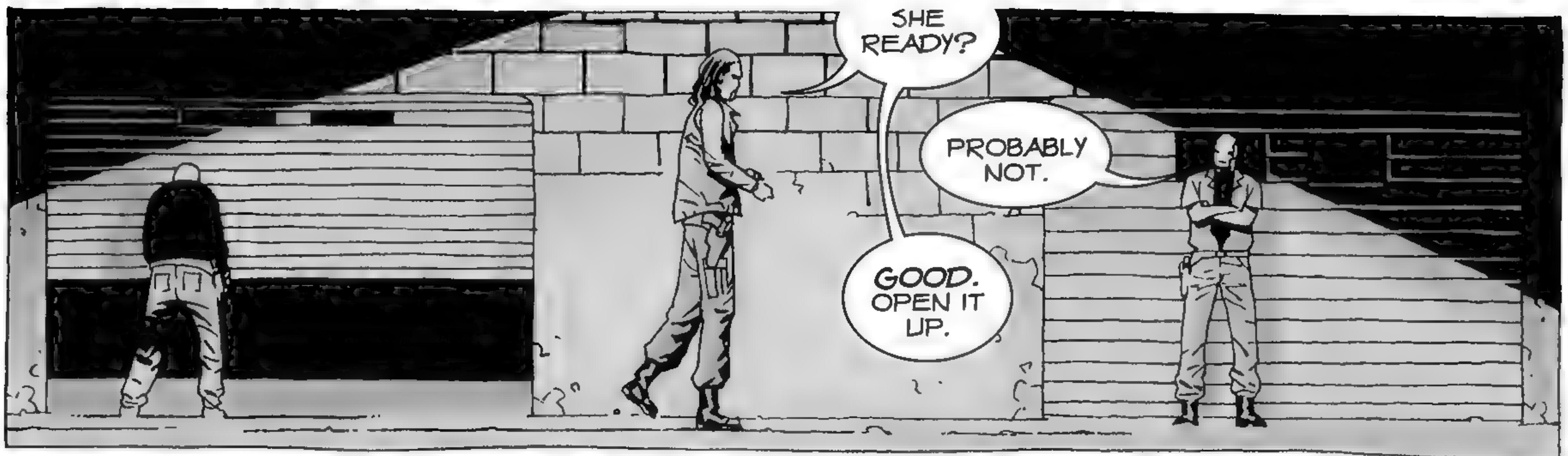
THAT SHOULD GET YOU IN THE MOOD TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONS.

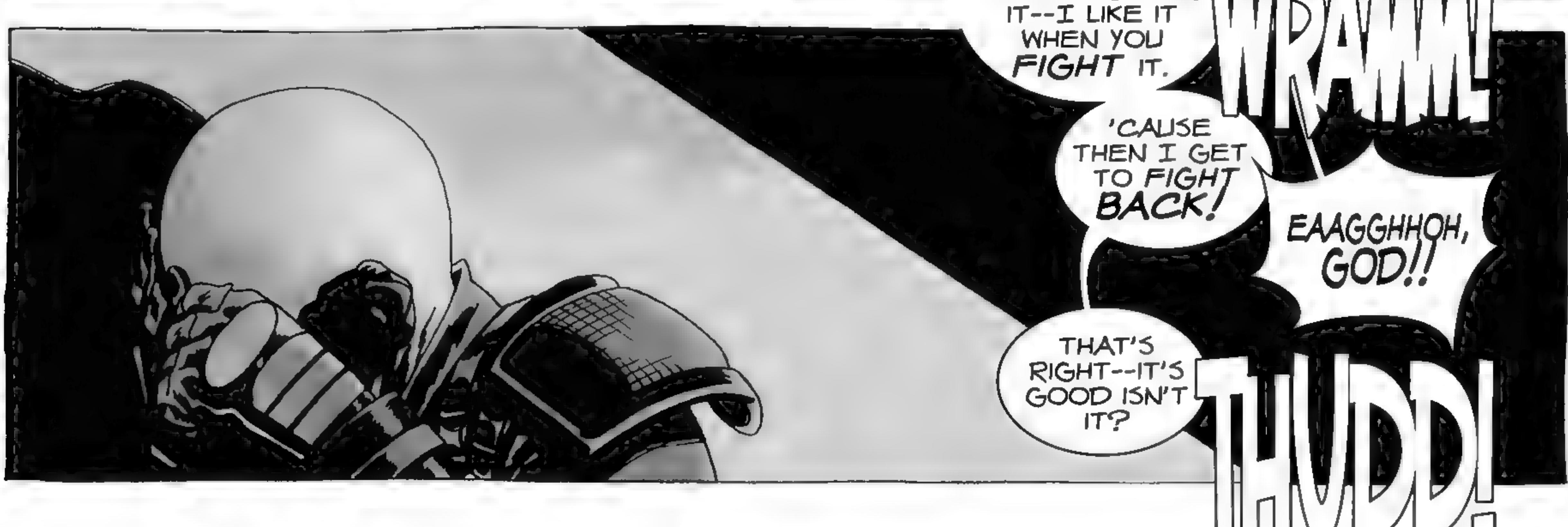
I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO. YOU'LL KNOW WHEN I'M DONE.

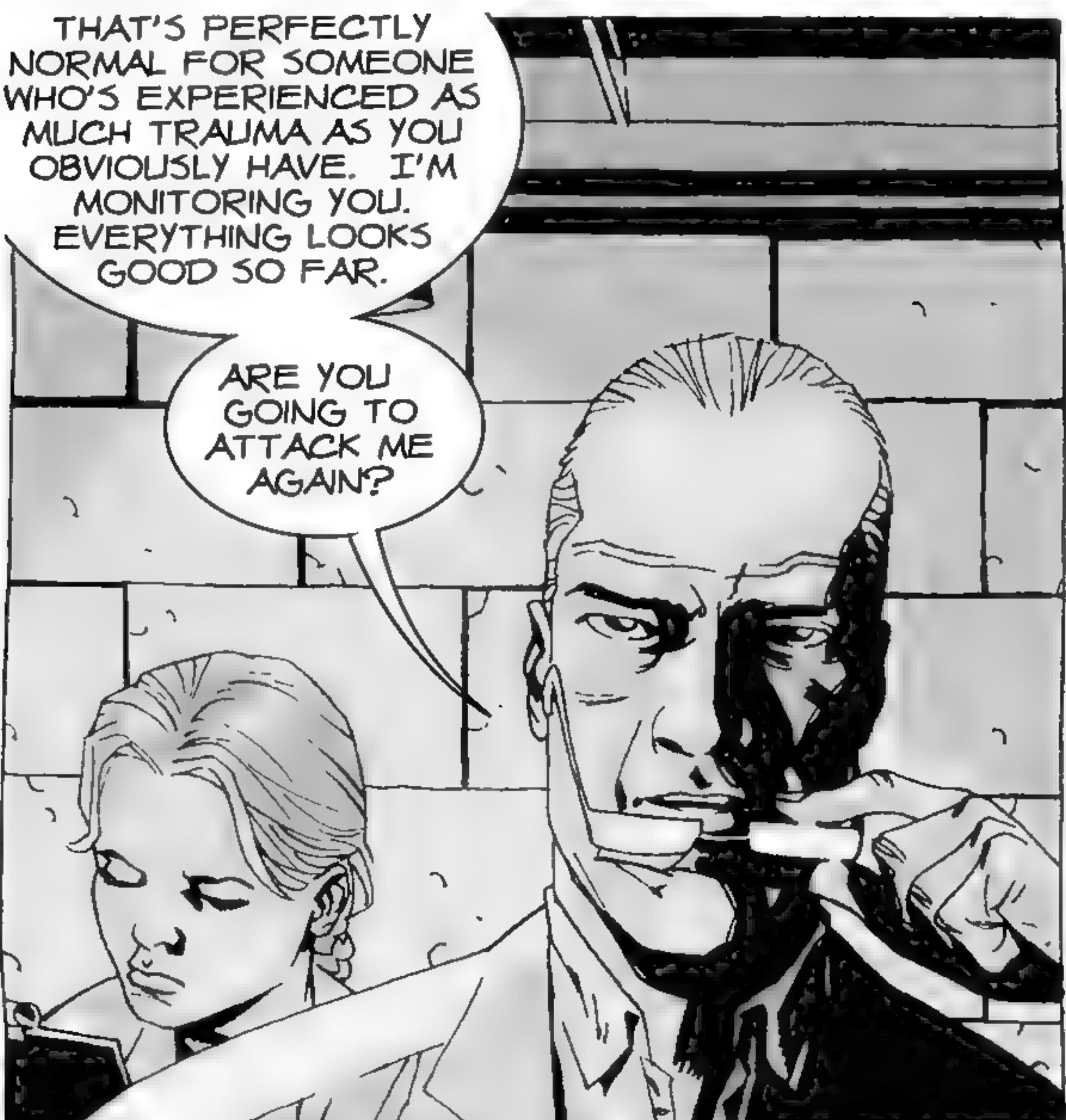
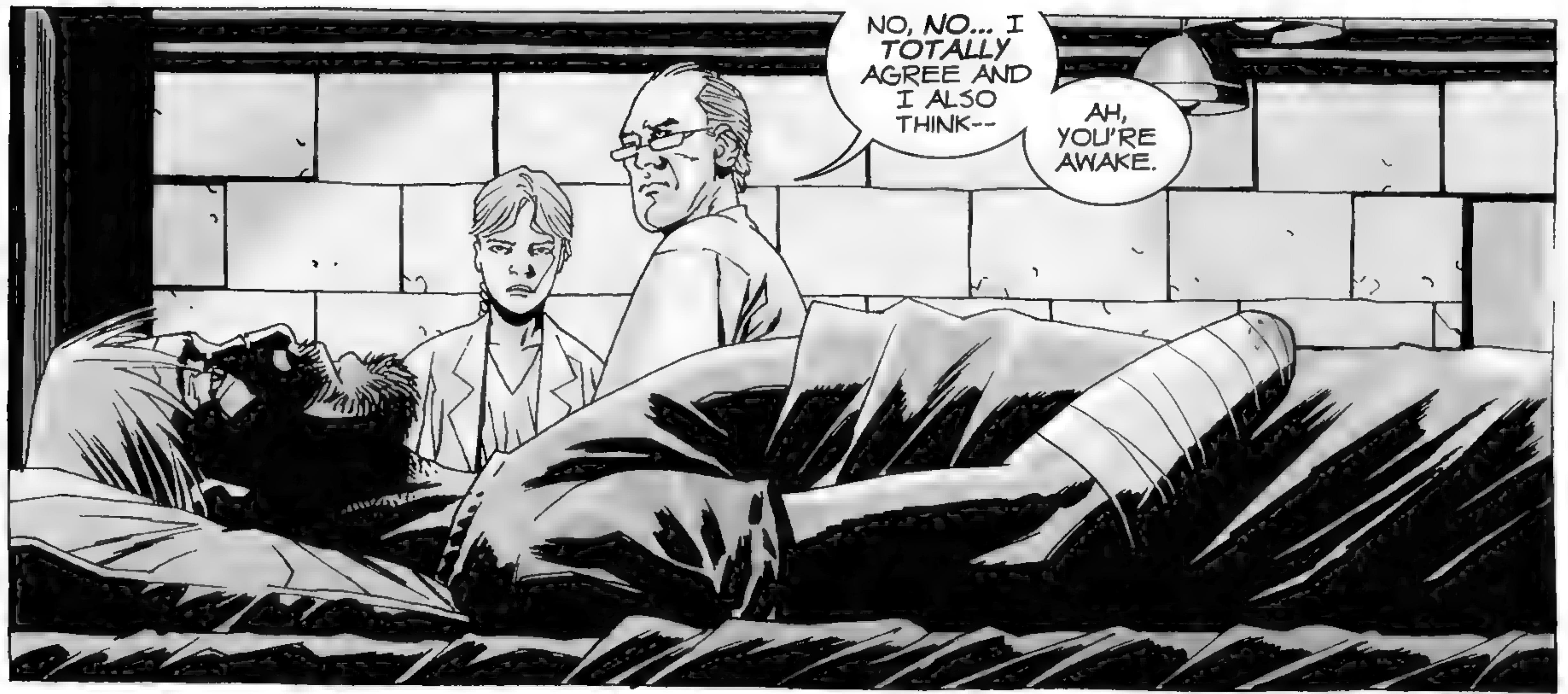
THE SCREAMS WILL TURN INTO WHIMPERs.

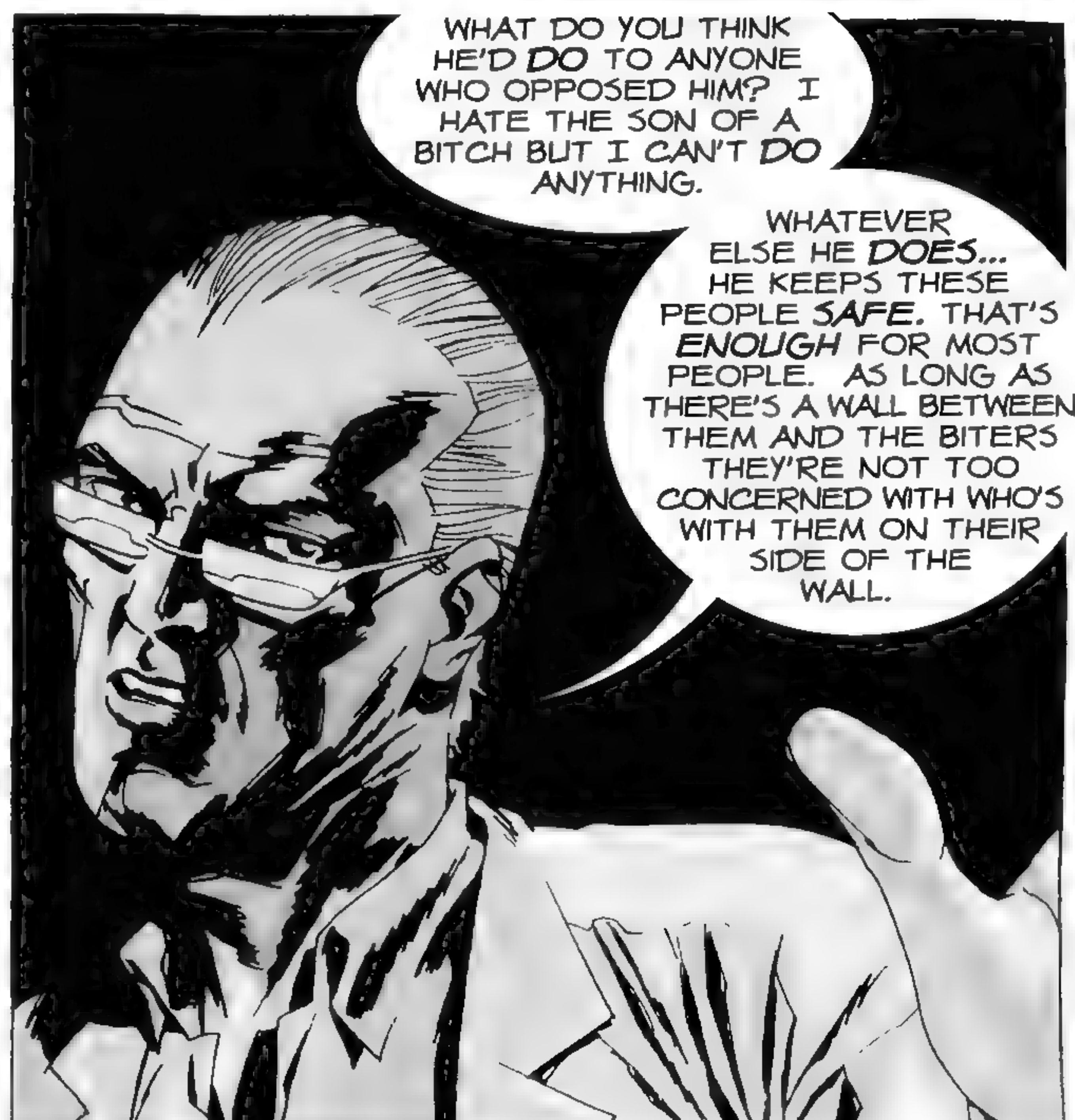
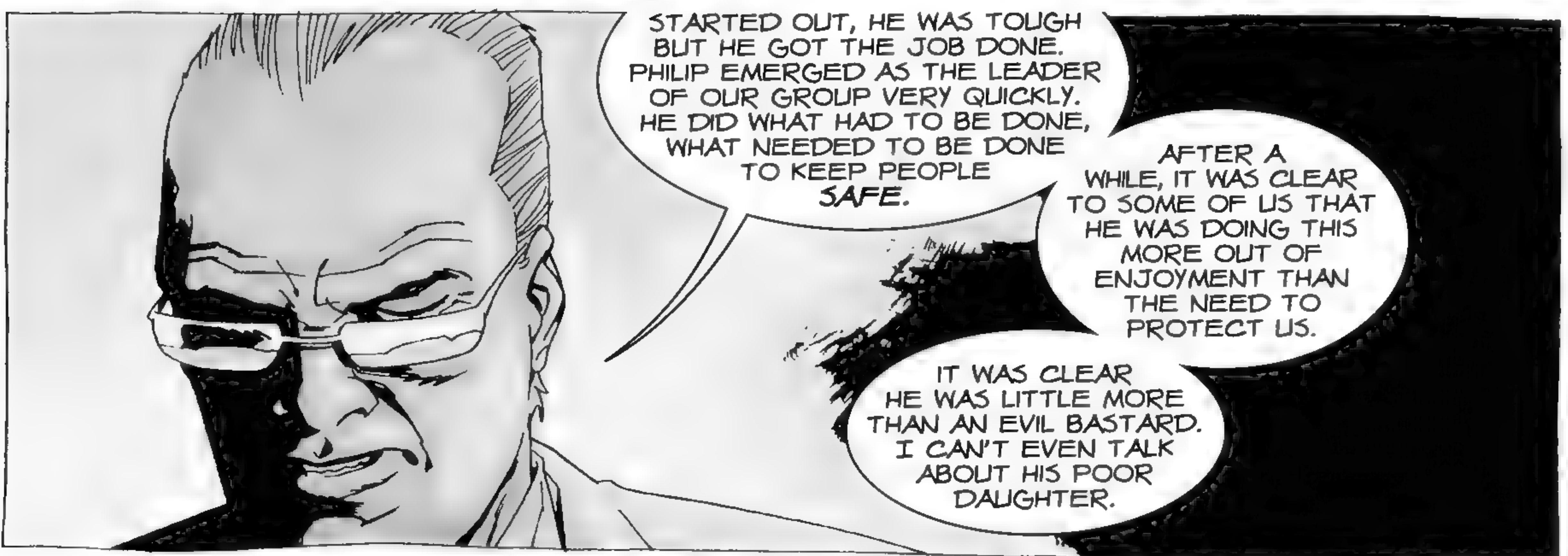
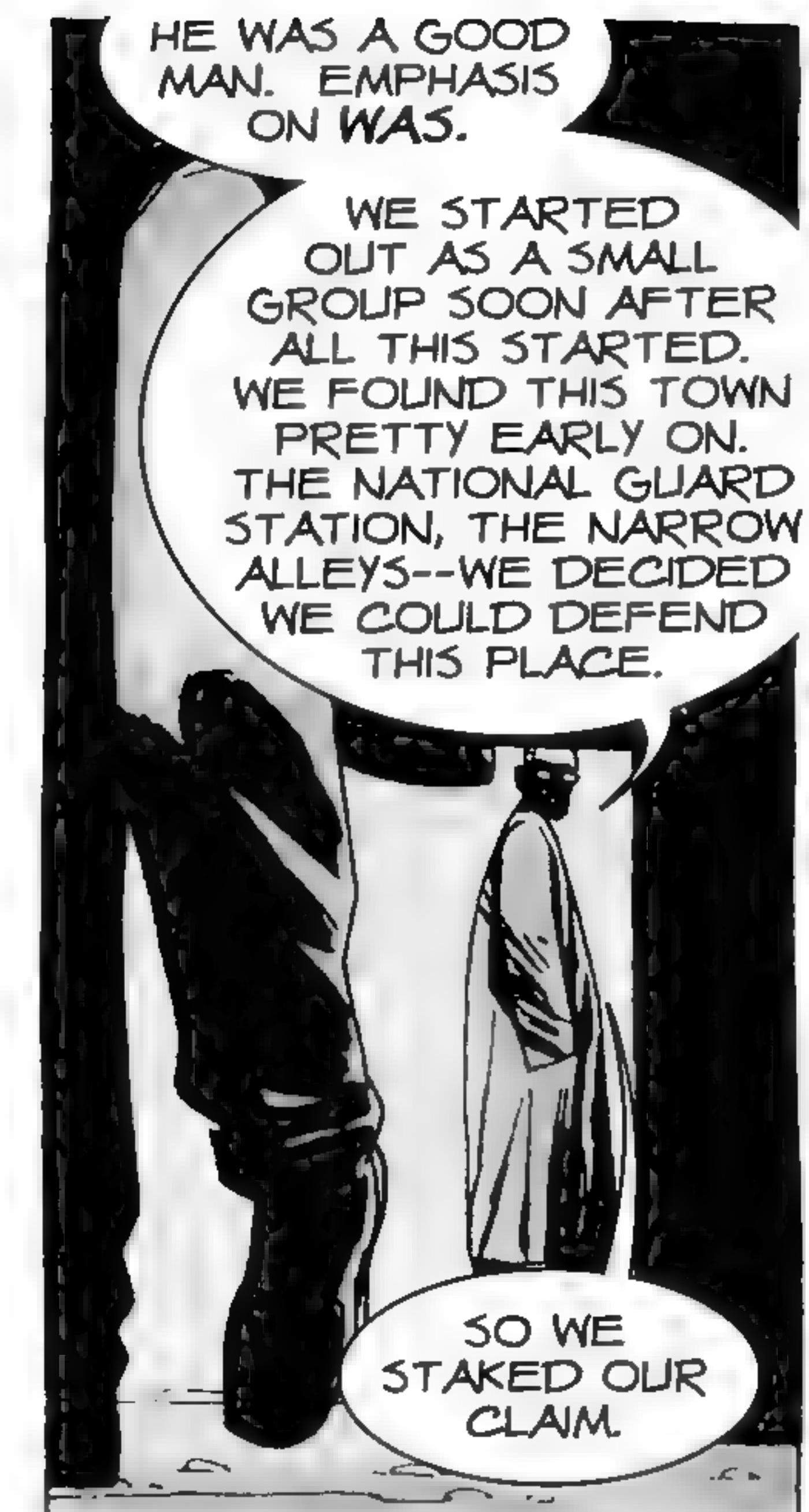
CLOSE IT.













SO... WHEN  
DO YOU START  
TORTURING  
ME?

YOU? NEVER. I PEGGED  
YOU FROM THE START, YOU'RE  
NOT GOING TO SAY SHIT. YOU'VE  
GOT FAMILY BACK WHEREVER  
YOU'RE FROM. YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO SELL THEM  
OUT.

TO  
WHAT?

NO, I WAS  
GOING TO TORTURE  
THE OTHERS IN FRONT  
OF YOU. I DIDN'T THINK  
YOU'D CRACK BUT I WAS  
PRETTY SURE ONE OF  
THEM WOULD.

BUT PLANS  
CHANGED.

YOU'RE GOING INTO  
THE ARENA. I WANT  
TO AT LEAST GET SOME  
ENTERTAINMENT OUT  
OF YOU.

I'M CURRENTLY  
PLANNING ON RAPING  
THE DOGSHIT OUT OF  
THE BITCH WHO TOOK  
OFF MY EAR UNTIL SHE  
FINDS A WAY TO KILL  
HERSELF.

AND THE  
YOUNG ASIAN  
BOY WITH THE  
OVERACTING TEAR  
DUCTS? I LET  
HIM GO.

YOU  
LET HIM  
GO?

WHY?

BECAUSE  
HE TOLD US  
EXACTLY  
WHAT WE  
WANTED TO  
HEAR.



I KNOW  
EVERYTHING  
I NEED TO  
KNOW ABOUT  
YOUR  
PRISON.

AND IF HE'S  
STUPID ENOUGH  
TO GO THERE...  
HE'LL LEAD US  
RIGHT TO  
IT.

# LETTER HACKS

Welcome to issue 29.

No time for love this month... gotta dive right into the mail.

Here goes!

Hi again, Kirkman!

Just read issue 26... You're seriously starting to piss me off... Here's the list:

1. You show us a helicopter in 25, then I breeze through issue 26 looking forward to finding out who's in the chopper. And at the end of the issue, I'm no closer to an answer! Damn you, Kirkman!!!

I gotta keep the fish on the line, man.

2. More Rathburn back covers?!? You can't keep doing this to me! Rathburn's zombies are so cool that a simple back cover is not enough! If you're going to keep doing this, you're going to have to give Rathburn a fill in issue or a one-shot or something. I can't handle getting this little taste each month and nothing more!

**Cliff is working on something non-Walking Dead related right now... he's pretty busy. After that—who knows.**

3. That two-page spread between issues 22-23 is a pretty cool idea, even if you did rip it off from Larsen. I didn't even notice it until one of the letters in this issue mentioned it. I went back and checked it out, and it's real cool. But it pisses me off because I know what you're doing, you corporate sell-out whore. The way it's printed, we can't really see what the full spread looks like without folding a comic in half, which you know most people won't do. Now, you'll print the trade with the spread intact, so we need to buy that to see the whole thing. I guess that's Kirkman - always trying to make a buck for "the man" at the expense of his poor fans...

**That's not it at all. It's all an effort Erik Larsen... he is the publisher at Image now, you know. Although, I will admit... the extra sales don't hurt.**

4. It feels like it's been forever since the last issue. You're probably not behind, but you were putting out more than just an issue a month, so I'm getting used to it... Make this book bi-monthly already! I bet you, Charlie, and Cliff are all wasting a third of your day sleeping when you could be writing/drawing/toning! Just get some Red Bull or Rockstar or something, and get your lazy asses back to work! Sleep's overrated anyway (why else would I be writing this at midnight on a Sunday when I have to get to work in the morning?)

**We'll do what we can. We have lost a week or two here and there in the schedule... starting in August, we'll be on track, monthly, like clockwork from here on out. And you can quote me on that... until we blow it.**

5. I never even noticed the "Previously In..." section on the inside cover... Good thing you mentioned it in the letters or I never would have seen it. Couldn't you make it stand out more so it would actually be useful to me?!

**Or, y'know... you could LOOK at the credits page or something. I can't read the books FOR you, man.**

OK, so that's a weak list, but it's better than your normal "the book's great, keep up the good work" letter you usually get, right? Those are just boring...

**Tell me about it.**

I'm really looking forward to finding out who was in the helicopter and who the group of people were that beat Rick,

**WRITE TO US AT:**

**THE WALKING DEAD  
C/O FUNK-O-TRON  
P.O. BOX 54386  
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386**

**OR**

**WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM**

Michonne, and Glenn to it. It's interesting that another group could have been that close to the prison without ever stumbling upon it... Of course, knowing your writing, it'll probably take months for you to answer those questions, because you just LOVE to piss me off!

Anyway, the book's great. Keep up the good work!

Jim Amato

**Thanks, I'm going to get back to pissing you off now. I LOVE IT!**

Robert Kirkman,

This letter is more of a double thank you. First let me tell you a little about myself. I'm 26 and I play in a rock-pop band called Spitalfiled. I tour about nine months out of the year and I am never home. So "comic book" Wednesday is a bit difficult for me sometimes. This is where the double thank you comes in. My favorite comic book store, Chicago Comics is two blocks from my apartment in the city. I go there every time I'm home and usually pick up a couple of trades before I leave for a tour. I brought up Invincible volume 1 and they said it was "amazing" and "you'll be back for two because that's when the shit hits the fan". It was their recommendation and high praise for you that convinced me to pick it up. Well, an hour later I was back. While I was picking up number two they told me of your other works including The Walking Dead. A week later I find myself owning all volumes of Invincible and The Walking Dead. So Kudos to those guys at Chicago Comics.

**Indeed--thanks bunches, guys.**

Second thank you goes to you and all working on this book. What a character you have in that Rick Grimes. I mean the transition that he has gone through since issue one. You can see it on his face, the way he walks and talks. With the work of Moore/Adlard and your stories, man his guy has substance. Too many times I find that the characters in some of the books I am reading, stay the same while only their situations and surroundings change. That is not the case here. And that's why I'm writing this to you and everyone that works on The Walking Dead. To tell you the truth I never ever thought about writing a letter to the editor, or creator of my favorite books until today. So again THANK YOU Chicago Comics and THANK YOU Robert Kirkman.

Newly acquired fan of your work,  
Tj

**No, thank you.**

Greetings Zombie-lovers,

I've been reading the monthly since issue ten, so I've been following your letter column for a while, and there are a couple of topics I'd like to weigh in on: First, I know you're sick of people asking you what you thought of Land of the Dead - so I'm not going to - but I do have an observation to make; one of the joys of the zombie genre is seeing real, recognisable people under pressure react to the breakdown of society. Personally, I find the idea of the world abruptly ending (aside from a handful of survivors) fascinating.

One reason Land (and Day) is less regarded than Dawn and Night is that they lack the resonance of witnessing the slow collapse of civilization. Land skipped to a point where zombies are a fact of life, and lost some of the immediacy that made

Dawn so poignant. One reason I love this book so much is that it's unfolded from the very beginning of an epidemic, so the people we're following are still grounded in a familiar world. The Walking Dead captures the 'What if this happened right now?' aspect of Romero's films in a way the later sequels didn't (don't get me wrong, I loved Land and Day, but neither give me the queasy, exhilarating sense of unease I get when I watch the opening half hour of Dawn). In your November '05 letter column you mentioned how tempted you were to have a helicopter with a pregnant blonde and a black police officer land on the prison roof - I'd sell you my soul if you did that (if not, it's available on e-bay). I mean, nobody else is ever going to use those characters. Even if it were an ambiguous cameo, it'd be a nod to the genre that inspired this comic. I'm sure there are ways to do it without leaving yourself legally vulnerable - I'm reminded of the 'Leonard' the Duck switcheroo pulled by Gerber in the Savage Dragon/Destroyer Duck one-shot a few years back. Given that you're Erik Larsen's bitch (and who wouldn't want to be?), I'm sure you're aware of the massive 'Fuck you!' to Marvel that I'm referring to. I've got my fingers crossed that the downed helicopter in issue 26 may have been carrying a black cop and a knocked-up woman. Of course, you may take the higher path and stick with your own characters, but I still hope you indulge your inner geek..

**I like to think the heads that The Governor were putting in fish tanks this issue--the ones from the people from the helicopter--are that of a black police officer and a blonde woman... but their origins, are a tad different... but that's about as close as I'm going to get to using those characters illegally.**

Some people seem to be complaining that the story is getting too soap opera-ish lately, and lamenting the lack of zombie action. I'd just like to say that one of my favourite things about this book is that the zombies don't have to be front and centre every issue for it to be a great read. I'm as big a fan of hatchet-wielding, samurai-sword swinging zombie-smooshing as the next reader, but it's the characters I come back for. Besides, all that slow-burn led to the fight between Rick and Tyreese, a showdown rich with drama because of the time taken to build a believable friendship between the two. I was shocked that it went as far as it did, but I still found it believable, and I can't wait to see what happens next between those guys. As far as I'm concerned, the pacing and focus of this book is perfect; without the quieter lulls, the action would feel pretty empty.

#### Thanks.

I would like to ask, why haven't the survivors discussed their theories about why the dead are walking around? I know that you (as a writer) aren't interested in exploring the origins of the zombies (yet), but our guys must have discussed it. I know that they probably talked about it a lot before Rick showed up in Atlanta, but somehow I think it'd still be a hot topic (especially with no TV). I guess I just want to see if anyone comes up with a reason as cool as 'When there's no more room in hell, the dead will walk the earth...'.

**It's been mentioned at least once... with Andrew. I imagine most of the characters talked about it before Rick arrived in issue 3. And Rick has other things occupying his mind.**

I have no list of numbered questions for you to answer, since you seem to be busy enough. I'll just say thanks for producing such a great book - I have a feeling that years from now, The Walking Dead might be spoken of with the reverence of the original trilogy - y'know, the way people first looked at Sopranos as a knock-off of Analyse This, and then quickly realised that it was actually a genre-defining masterpiece.

Take it easy,  
Paul Doncaster, England

P.S. I laughed my ass off when I saw what you did to the Silver Surfer in Marvel Zombies (so I guess you owe me a new ass).

#### The ass is in the mail.

P.P.S. I think Michonne is a spy working for another bunch of survivors, that this other bunch of survivors took the people from the plane. But then again, I'm a cynical fucker.

**Michonne is not a spy.**

Dear Mr. Kirkman

You, my friend, are a miracle worker. You got me to do two things that I swore I would never do.

The first was to end my boycott of Image comics, I swore that after the whole Todd McFarlane / Neil Gaiman lawsuit over the Miracleman rights that I would never buy anything with Todd's name attached to it. The second was to write into a comic book. I'm a 33 yr. old comic book fan, I have been a serious collector since I was 16, as my wife will tell you I take my comics very seriously. One of my all time favorite series was Miracleman (just

to let you know that The Walking Dead just knocked it down to number 2 on my list) unfortunately when Neil Gaiman took over for Alan Moore, he was unable to finish it because Eclipse Comics went under, leaving us readers wondering if he was going to be able to finish the series. I'm not going to bore you with all the details (I'm sure you know more about it than me anyhow) but I sided with Neil on everything, and when Todd tried to bring Miracleman back in Hellspawn, I just about lost it. I knew that Neil was trying to finish the story he was trying to tell, and well I just thought that Todd was being a prick about it. Well I am also a huge zombie fan, I can remember watching Dawn of the Dead when I was about 8 or 9 and just being amazed. It wasn't until I saw the remake that I became hook and all things zombies. Could you imagine my dismay when I heard about this book, after much soul searching I decided to buy the first trade paperback and read it twice in one sitting. I couldn't get back to the comic book store fast enough to buy the other 3. What an amazing series! Next to Miracleman, I have never felt so... I don't have a word for it.... satisfied after reading all 4 trades. I just finished issue 25 and 26 and let me tell you I will never miss an issue from here on out. I also look forward to picking up some more titles by Image now that I broke down and bought TWD.

**Image is a fantastic company, of which Todd McFarlane is part--a large part, but he's not affiliated with this book or any book from Image Central (I.E. non Top Cow and non Todd McFarlane Productions). I will say that from my experience, Todd is a swell guy and there are two sides to every story. I refuse to take sides because I don't know the whole story.**

Number 2, I have never felt the need to write into any comic book that have read until now, I don't even really know what to say, your book floors me, the story lines are awesome, the characters are very believable, I even prefer the black and white to color with this book. (the B/W really gives it a feeling of despair, desperation, and loneliness.) Well thank you for your time and I hope to see this letter in print in an upcoming issue, one last thing, could you please recommend 3-5 titles published by Image that I could pick up, I enjoy zombies, but also the superhero genre as well as books like Y-the last man. Again, thank you for what you do, you have got to have the best job in the world

Fan for Life  
Erik Porter

**Well, I won't recommend Invincible and Battle Pope (my other books) because that would seem too cheap. But they're good books and if you like my work on this book you might just like those as well... that's "INVINCIBLE" and "BATTLE POPE" more about them can be found at the end of this letters column. Now, five OTHER books you might like at Image?**

1. GIRLS
2. GODLAND
3. NOBLE CAUSES
4. SEA OF RED
5. FELL

**Dear Image Creator,**  
I apologize in advance for forgetting to recommend YOUR book. It's not because I dislike it, or think it's sub par. It's possible I just didn't think the content would jive with someone who likes TWD and superheroes as the letter writer mentioned. PVP is a fantastic book... but maybe this reader wouldn't like it. I'll be sure to mention your book next time. Promise.

Dear Mr. Kirkman

Firstly, I want to say I'm a big fan of your work! I do have a question though. Several of my friends and I spent \$100.00 on the Walking Dead Slipcase HC, which was beautiful by the way, and were concerned to see a new hardcover format of issues 1-12 in the latest Previews. Maybe I'm jumping the gun here but does this mean there will not be a volume 2 hardcover slipcase?

Yours truly;  
Big Mike

**THERE WILL BE A SECOND SLIPCASE VOLUME. I PROMISE. We have to get to issue 48 first though. The 12-issue hardcovers will be cheaper and have less stuff-and WILL NOT be limited. I want a volume 2 slipcase... so I promise there will be one. MAYBE Christmas 2007... but maybe Christmas 2008... we'll see. But there WILL be one.**

Hey Mr. Kirkman,

Hello and best wishes. About two months ago I read Invincible #1 and the Walking Dead through the Image site's digital comic format. I really liked them and had to find out what happened next. (Their ploy worked on me) Anyway, so I went straight to Amazon and bought the hardback collection volume one of Invincible and the 1st TPB of TWD. Wow! This pretty much blew my mind. So I went and bought up the back issues of Invincible and the rest of the TPB's of TWD and am now current.

They just saw the helicopter.

The problem is, now that I'm up to date, I have to wait month by month to get these little single issue tidbits. This sucks. I think this qualifies as an addiction. You see, I am a doctor and I have been sneaking into the call room at the hospital to read these things. I've been getting them in the mail, sneakily hiding them from my wife so she doesn't know that I'm spending money on this stuff. (sounds similar to a dope problem, huh). Funny thing, I've bought two of TWD trades at Barnes & Nobles and each time the check out person said something like "Good choice. This stuff is great!"

Bottom line; I'm writing this to wish you congratulations on making a living doing something you like and that a lot of other people really like. Not everyone is that lucky. Also, as your career moves forward into bigger \$ projects, I hope you don't completely leave this format behind. Another thing. When the movies start coming, keep complete creative control. Don't let them water your stuff down. I can't wait to see them.

Another fan,  
Jason

**Yeah, sorry you have to put up with the monthly grind now. That's just the nature of the business.**

**As far as abandoning this book goes... all I have EVER wanted to do since I was like... ten years old is work in comics. All I've EVER wanted to do since I started working in comics is have LONG runs on books, getting to tell broad, over-arching story arcs... and getting to stay on a book for years and tell a full story.**

**So now that I have that with Invincible and The Walking Dead... I'm not going ANYWHERE. I want to see both books reach at least 100... but I've got no plans to go anywhere on either book after that.**

Mr. Kirkman,

Thanks for proving my theory. I've long held the contention that zombies make everything better. Be it video games, movies, or comic books, I see few things that couldn't be improved by the living dead. Bored with Super Mario Bros.? Understandable. You wouldn't be bored if you were jumping on the heads of the shuffling undead instead of waddling mushrooms. Movies? How much more enjoyable would Titanic have been if Leo DeCap would have come back from his watery grave to feast on the brainpan of his darling Rose?

**I like the cut of your jib, fella.**

Now, in the midst of a cultural zombie revival, I find myself increasingly impatient for the next issue to come out. Thanks for that. It's the ongoing zombie saga that could never be provided by any other medium. It's not a Nintendo game, it's not a movie, it's my comic collection that's been vastly improved by the presence of zombies. And specifically, the batch that you've cooked up and the lives you've shown us that have been affected by them. There are other books with zombies in them on the shelf, but your team has created a new standard for the undead. Congratulations, and thanks again.

Loyally yours,  
Gavin Napier

**Thanks for writing.**

Dear Kirkman,

Holy crap. Issue 26 is the issue I've been waiting for and there's more to come. Helicopters crashing, random zombie attacks, polygamy, soap opera goodness. Woo-hoo. I love it when I can't predict what's going to happen. Never thought Carol would ask to marry Rick and Lori. Good times. Got the whole Lost thing going with the others in the area. Feel like I should say more, but you need that space in the back to plug your other books, make fun of Bendis, and print those bios... Heh. Oh, and I spilled water all over this comic and the back page fused with my Tommy Boy DVD box. Just thought I should share that.

Questions:

1. Ok, I convinced you to put up Invincible for a Heroclix set. Now how about The Walking Dead for Horrorclix?

**We'll see.**

2. I've been selling people the Invincible trades, but there are no letters. Bendis includes some letters in his Powers trades. You are better than Bendis, right?

**Yes, I'm MUCH better than Bendis. That's why I put stuff you actually want to SEE in the trades instead of mountains of ego stroking letters you'll never read. I swear... that Bendis... he was so much better before he cut his hair.**

3. Romero might be making a sequel. What do you think? What would you like to see?

**A direct continuation from Land of the Dead. I'm looking forward to it.**

4. Have you seen Dead and Breakfast? Such a great movie. Has zombies, but not the Romero breed. Good stuff. They do Thriller.

**Not yet... maybe some day.**

5. Zombie Gorillas? Already been done. The band Gorillaz rocks. They begin their newest album with music from Dawn of the Dead. A song from another album is nothing but Dead film sound bites.

**That's right.**

6. Did you know that when you have a tickle in your throat, scratching your ear to cause small throat spasms makes it better?

**I'll certainly try that next time.**

I'm pumped with the new direction in this book and Invincible. Tellin you man, Walking Dead Horrorclix. Chance to kill Allen all over again. Looking forward to the new MTU stuff as well. Haven't read Ultimate X-Men, but I promised you I would. I'll tell you what I think.

Kirkmaniac,  
Chris Pitts

**You better get on that Ultimate X-Men bandwagon soon--that book NEEDS the readers!**

Mr. Kirkman,

Issue 27. Dear God, where do I start? I have been reading TWD since issue #1. Many times your book has made my jaw drop, but nothing can compare to the last page of #27. I actually yelled "Holy !@#\$%"! which made my dog jump about 20 feet!

**Really? You shoulda really screamed at the end of 28.**

How will Rick handle this situation? Something tells me that all three of them don't make it out in one piece. Michonne looks to be able to take care of herself, but is Glen up to the task? It also was a nice touch to see that the 3 of them were smart enough not to divulge the prison camp. Will the truth slip out? Much as I would like to see a Living vs Living battle, I'm not sure I want to see the prison survivors go against what appears to be a professional army.

This book continues to get better every month. It is great to finally get some new characters, and we will hopefully get to see what/how they have survived. The last page was actually terrifying to me! Dr Logan and Millard Roush would definitely approve!

This is without a doubt the best title on the market right now. The dialogue is believable, and the story is really starting to pick up speed now. I have tried to get others aboard the TWD, and my fiancé Jenn is absolutely nuts about this book as well.

Have you had a chance to check out "Escape from the living dead?" It's not as bad as I thought it would be, and miles better than "Toe Tags" by Romero. My local shop, Harrison's in Salem, Massachusetts, has a whole wall devoted to horror comics right now, but they tell me that TWD is without a doubt the best selling title right now. It's always good to see a true fan make good, Robert!

**I haven't checked that book out... I'll probably buy the TPB.**

Marvel Zombies kicks all kind of ass also, but TWD is still my favorite. Please, no matter what the "Big guys" offer you, please keep writing this one, please???

Until next time,  
Phil Stevens

**Read what I said above. I'm not going anywhere. And neither are Charlie or Cliff as far as I know.**

Robert,

While working today, I had several questions regarding Walking Dead. Several questions are silly, others are out of mild curiosity. At any rate, here they are:

1. Will you ever reveal if the zombie apocalypse is localized or globalized?

**We'll be getting more hints of that as the series goes on. My lips are sealed.**

2. Does the title "Walking Dead" exclude the living dead disabled? Ie. Will we ever see zombies in wheelchairs?

**Yes. I'm very hateful toward the handicapped. I will be doing a "The Rolling Dead" spin off title as soon as I'm washed up and desperate for cash... in August.**

3. Will you please, please have the following character exchange: Character one: Man, things can't get much worse. I don't how we can go on...

Character Two: The drummer from Def Leopard only has one arm, he did.

**That was in issue one, wasn't it?**

4. Who would win in a fight to the death, the drummer from Def Leopard or Lance Armstrong?

**That drummer who's name you (and I) can't bother to look up on the internet... for sure.**

5. Have you ever been angry that you've killed off a character though it was demanded in the storyline? Which one?

**I would have liked to have kept them ALL around for at least a little longer... but when they gotta go they gotta go. That's what this book is about. I think keeping Amy around would have been fun. Who DOESN'T miss Jim. Shane could have mucked things up longer. I probably shouldn't have killed SO MANY of Hershel's kids. It's so unrealistic to have that guy even forming sentences... Allen and Donna were fun. Donna in particular could have been cool to have around... but sadly... they're all dead.**

Got a customer. That's it for now.

-Thanks,  
Andrew

**Thanks for writing.**

Dear Walking Dead team,

I stopped buying comics when I was fourteen years old. Ghost Rider started to suck, I discovered girls, and started going to lollapalooza. I hadn't really thought too much about comics for the past twelve years except when I had to lug the shoeboxes full of them that I still had every single time I moved. Even then, everytime the thought was "damn, I really need to get rid of these things." Things changed at the beginning of last summer. I was getting tattooed for nine hours in two days, and as exciting as my tattoo artist is to talk to it got just a little tiring. While hunched over with a needle jabbing into my back for hours on end I noticed a book on his cluttered shelf of art-books in front of me titled The Walking Dead. As he and I are both horror movie fanatics I knew that it would be interesting, although I must say I was skeptical because it was in comic form (Ghost Rider really disappointed me by issue 26; deep scar.)

Well now here it is nine months later and that first trade has given a (re)birth to an old habit. I am a full-fledged comic book nerd once again. The book blew me away immediately as a literary accomplishment and a comic. It made me ask Lance (the tattoo artist) if other comics were out there as good. He said "I'll bring you the other two trades tomorrow." After I devoured those I immediately went out to my local comic shop and pestered the owner into telling me other books that were as good as yours. Of course Walking Dead and Invincible are my two favorites that he recommended but I'm a big fan of Brian Vaughn's work and Rick Remender. It's sad that Tony Moore had to leave you but the guy's doing amazing things with Fear Agent and also Exterminators. (**I agree... and I love working with Charlie, so it was all for the better.**)

Anyway, I'm rambling but I JUST finished, like minutes ago, issue 27 and I must say its my favorite issue in a while. I was a little disappointed that 25 didn't get the special treatment Invincible got for its 25, but this one makes up for it in the ohmigod I have to know what's happening next dept. I have three comments/questions:

1) Why weren't Rick, Glen, and Michonne concerned with finding any markings on the helicopter? They were curious about it being military or television etc...as it was flying, but no mention of its origin was posed when they reached the crash site, don't know why this bugs me so much, but...you know?

**Uh... they were distracted by the footprints? I suck as a writer? Pick one.**

2) Glad to see the arrival of the inevitable "outsiders" that would have to ruin everything great that has been achieved (although the definition of great would have to be stretched) a'la the bikers of Dawn, or the rednecks of Night, the soldiers of 28 days... (sorry to bring that movie up) I keep expecting Andrew to pop back up since his swift departure after Dexter's death. Not that this plot development is derivative at all, its exciting and seems to serve as a way for the characters to realize that the world that has been destroyed might have been destroyed for a reason, people are bastards.

**The new group will add a lot to the book. Fun and interesting times are ahead.**

3) I don't think I've laughed harder in a long time than at your responses to the letters in 27 about poo eating zombies or "what would happen if a human bit a zombie" debate, wow if you printed those letters I'll feel lame if I don't see mine (wink wink.)

**It's taken care of.**

To wrap it up, thanks a lot for getting me into comics again, though my wallet is crying for mercy, especially after buying that hardcover deluxe madness, keep up the fantastic work. It depresses me that you are only 27 (my age) I am a lazy person.

Thanks.  
Adam Mitchell.

**Don't feel bad. I'm sure I'll probably die before you do with all this stress I put myself through. You'll win in the end. You'll see.**

Kirkman!

Woot! I'm so excited! You wrote "Charlie's in for the long haul!!! Hoorah! I love the long haul! The best comics are when the writer and artist stay on for a few years. I felt reluctant about TWD until the third trade came out. Didn't want to invest in a story just to see it pawned off to hired writers. I cut you some slack though, I held off of Savage Dragon until issue 75 before I started buying it.

**Is that the theme of this issue? I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT. NO ONE OTHER THAN ME WILL EVER WRITE THIS BOOK... until I totally sell out. But seriously, I don't plan to ever leave. The book will be cancelled long before I feel like letting someone else write it.**

Ooh speaking of! I've an idea, y'know how Larsen is on like issue one-hundred twenty-something of Savage Dragon? If he keeps going at his pace, and you keep going at yours you could totally beat him to issue 200! That would be AWESOME! You should bet him some money on that!

**I would love to do that. Just to stick to old baldy (that's what we call him around the Image office). I tell you what... I'll give it a shot.**

I want you to know how much I appreciate how well you manage to balance the book. Sometimes scifi/fantasy/horror starts off with so many ideas and then disappoints by failing to deliver on them. You've done a masterful job of pulling in the reins to keep it interesting and yet containable.

Your reader until you stop,  
Mahdroo McCaleb

P.S. I was horror struck when Michonne said "when we get to wherever it is we're going...it's just a matter of time before they catch up to us and the longer our trip the more there will be." That made me imagine Atlanta's millions of zombies surrounding the prison. The thought of vast herds of zombies sweeping the country side was terrifying (is that what the people in the Helicopter were looking at?)

**Only the shadow knows! Or... Only time will tell! Your pick.**

First off, I work at Wal-mart and I freaking love that there is a shot of one in the background in issue #27! LOVE IT! Sometimes I feel like we're all zombies working there! Anyway, no entertainment means feeding strangers to zombies? That's really messed up!!! Love the book and thanks again to the whole team that works on it!

Bobby W. Chamberlain

**I worked at Wal-Mart in high school. Tony Moore worked in the Wal-Mart pharmacy (same Wal-Mart) shortly after high school. Wal-Mart REPRESENT! I don't think Charlie or Cliff ever worked in a Wal-Mart.**

Kirkman,

Not much to say that isn't usually said in over 7 pages of fun mail (I READ EM)! Likewise my first time I HAVE ever written in EVER to anything. I started on the Walking Dead late in its existence, my first issue being #19 where we are introduced to Michonne. Crazy issue to jump into but best \$3.70 CANADIAN I ever spent. Didn't bother with the trades at the time because rumour was swirling of the massive 24 issue hardcover (shout-outs to Darryl at Cyber City in Toronto, Ontario, who gave it to me for American Cover! Customer 4 life!). When the omnibus arrived I spent that entire Wednesday reading the goddamn thing and there is nothing I can say that hasn't been said aside keep 'em coming. But wow the wait between 25 and 26 seemed like years. What was the actual wait period? Seemed longer than the wait between Ultimates 9 and 10! But looks like your getting back on track with 2 issues coming out monthly twice in the next 3 months! Now on to the customary questions:

1.) Carol seems about to crack. Is she really that lost without a man that she'd be willing to go into a 3 some marriage? Maybe its a clever scheme so she has an excuse to get it on with Rick and not feel guilty about pulling a Tyreese on Lori's ass.

**We'll see. She's pretty nutty these days. I don't think it's just because she doesn't have a man, though.**

2.) I've heard a big change is coming in the next few issues. Is the big change going to involve Lori's baby? With new characters coming out of issue 27 I can see how no one has thought about it yet but if something is wrong with Lori's baby I can see a rift forming between Rick and Lori with Carol in the middle.

**The baby is coming... but not just yet.**

3.) What do zombies do for entertainment when there aren't any humans around to munch on?

**Racquet ball.**

4.) Last but not least ATTEND A TORONTO CON! We got 2 coming up here April 23rd and 28-30th. I want you to sign my Walking Dead Omnibus. Plus we got lots of donut shops everywhere! I'll bring you a dozen. Just print me a list of your favorites.

**I'm sure I'll make it to Canada eventually.**

Hope you print this letter and you need to take over Ultimate Spider-man. I'll be waiting for that day! Zombie King Kirkman, fan for life here.

Sincerely,  
Mike Somma (To many fucking Mike's. Need a name change).

**Bendis is scared of what I'll do with that book. He doesn't want me to make him look bad. Some day, though... some day...**

Kirkmanotron!

You've really shaken things up with the introduction of the second "haven", and in a nicely unexpected way. I can't wait to see where things go from here, and the sense that the "Governor" and his boys are going to screw everything up for our favourite survivors is hard to shake. Even if they never find out about the prison, the tension is always going to be there, knowing that they're just down the road.

Speaking of which, surely someone in the town knows about the prison, seeing as it's within easy traveling distance? Or did they last check on it before Rick and the gang moved in?

**The group in Woodbury is very large... some people don't even know others. Also, Governor is not exactly making it public knowledge how they're getting their supplies. Not everyone in the camp is a rotten person. Also, most of the people in town aren't from that specific area of Georgia.**

**If I moved 40 miles South in Kentucky... where I have lived all my life. I would have NO IDEA what was five miles in any direction without doing some serious exploring... and that would take resources I might not have.**

Also, the little chat with Lori highlighted some interesting questions about morality and the like, beyond the "kill or be killed" stuff the men folk are always going on about. I wonder if you'll be delving into similar questions about what's right and what's wrong with the Governor and his enclave. It would be a shame, I think, to take the easy route and broadly portray them as cackling villains.

Another great issue, Mr K.  
Keep it up!

**I'm trying to make the "villains" of this book as three dimensional as possible. Let me know if I succeed.**

Mr Kirkman,

I just want to say thank you. You rock man. The Walking Dead is my favorite comic book. You make me dream! So here are a few questions, after reading The Walking Dead 27 :

1) Do you have an idea of how the story will end? I mean is it a happy end?

**I do have a rough idea... I'd rather not say if it's happy or sad.**

2) Will we see Duane and his son again (beside the Holiday Special) ?

**We'll see. They're still out there somewhere... but it's a big world.**

3) D'you think the characters will travel outside the US ?

**Probably not. That would be hard to do given where they are geographically.**

4) I want to know what happened to Tyreese when he was in the basketball field! How did he survive? And will we know what is going on in his head since his daughter died?

**He went crazy and killed a shit load of zombies, almost in a trance due to the stress he was going through. It could happen, these things are slow and are probably not well balanced. The odds were against him... but it's not impossible that anyone could do that if they were in good shape and had the temperament to do what he did. We'll be hearing more from Tyreese as we go on... he's got a lot on his mind.**

Thanks for everything! Hope you'll stay with the book till the end!  
Francois

Please print me, print me, i'm so okay with that!

**Your wish is my command.**

Just wanted to compliment you on a story that not only delivers

characters that you care about but also the action and of course horror that work very nicely instead of just overloading the reader on gore and violence as a sole means to keep them interested, and to all the people that think nothing but shoeless hicks come out of Kentucky you have once again proved them wrong. It's all around a great story and can't wait until the next issue.

Jonathan Poole

Have you SEEN me? If I don't qualify as a "shoeless hick" I don't know WHO does!

Dear Kirkman, Adlard & Rathburn,

Bravo, my friends, THE WALKING DEAD is now back on track. I just read and re-read that final page in issue 27 and it STILL scares the hell out of me. Wow! I can't remember the last time I've felt so anxious to read the next issue of TWD. Psycho modern-day savages vs. our heroes vs. the zombies? This is gonna be harrowing (but fun).

Peaks and valleys people. This book will always have slower character driven issues from time to time... that's the design of the book. To have four slow issues of character development and to think the book has "gone of track" is insane. You've got to care about these guys before their guts get ripped out.

Cheers,  
Dann Lennard  
Sydney, Australia

P.S. Kirkman, are you reading all the zombie anthologies being put out by BOOM? They're pretty entertaining.

**I've read a couple. They're not bad.**

P.P.S. I've particularly enjoyed the past two issues where you've interspersed the main storyline with the ongoing soap opera sub-plots in the prison. Nice one, fellas. :D

Thanks.

Dear Kirkman,  
What can I say that hasn't already been said? TWD is phenomonal! The combination of your superb writing and Charlie and Cliff's art beats the hell out of just about every comic out there. But everyone already knows these things, I see them all the time on your letters page. Seriously man, I'm running out of ways to kiss your ass. Back to the letters page though, you said in Steve Ball's letter how you love how so many people write in but don't ever read the letters columns. I just wanted to say I'm a devoted fan of reading the letters like that one where that dude wrote in and said some stuff and you said some stuff back. Man, that was gold! I'm still catching up to Invincible and haven't even started on Brit yet, but I'll get there. I do have a question (and it's not even a TWD question, but I'm gonna be a total dick and use up this space while I have it), will you be doing anything for Marvel's upcoming Civil War? It would be make sense for something to be thrown into a MTU issue seeing as how that book is written for the purpose of throwing heroes together, and it's most fun to see them when they don't agree. Thanks for the great stories!

Mike Parks

**I'm doing "The Irredeemable Ant-Man" which will spin out of Civil War... otherwise I'll just be watching from the sidelines. Marvel Team-Up is focusing on other stuff during the crossover.**

So far the issues I've read of this book have been #1, and #'s 24-27. There are some things I wonder if you have ever covered in the endless dialogue of the issues I haven't read:

What do Rick and co. think God is doing about the whole alien zombie thing? Do they ever talk about God at all? For example, "How could God let this happen??!"

**It's been mentioned briefly. Hershel is religious.**

The issue of entertainment was brought up by 'Governor' in issue #27; what DO the regular cast do for entertainment? Besides reading and sleeping around, of course. Somebody must have a deck of cards right? What about food? They live in a prison...what happens when they run out of food? Go traipsing off to the woods to kill some deer??

**Probably. Right now the prison is still well stocked with government issue canned goods. They'll be fine for a little while at least... but they WILL run out of food eventually, and this book will show that. That's the fun part of this book for me. We will eventually get around to everything.**

And here's an idea. Maybe it's naive, or you've already covered it, but still, here goes: why not just have Rick and his band kill all the zombies--if that's possible, I mean--then repopulate the Earth??? Sure it would take generations, even the killing part, but--ya know?

**It is not possible. Zombies outnumber people like 1000**

**to 1 or so right now... and there are FAR more people alive than we've shown.**

At any rate, I do kinda dig this series and have started reading it regularly. I don't even mind the black and white any more (Rick has brown hair right?). I was fooled by the Governor and co. and their intentions too; at least until the next to the last page. And, gee, "how will they get out of this one?"

Letter Hacks is a bit vague for a letter column, really. Is there such a thing as a Dead Letter?? Sounds familiar. My favorite characters? Michonne...the blonde woman, don't know her name yet. but there are a lot of kids at the prison--how did They survive so long on the outside?? And how long has it BEEN anyway? A few years or more, like in real life?

Cya.

**The kids had parents protecting them. You really should pick up the TPBs. I'm not looking this up (I do keep all this stuff written down) but it's been about 8 months since the zombie plague started. It's May or June or so and the "plague" started in October. So not even a year has passed, which is why Lori is still pregnant.**

First off, I know a hundred other people have said it before, but I have to think you for getting me back into comic books. Hell, I can even get my girlfriend to go to Comic Book World to pick up issues for me since I got her addicted to TWD too.

Now, I hate to do this. Especially considering this is my first letter, but when I was reading through the first issues again I came across the part at the farm where the family had all killed each other. Considering what happened to Chris and Julie, why didn't this family turn into zombies? I really don't mean to be a bastard and ask a question like this, but I really had to ask you. Unlike most fan boys, I will not be bothered by it if you just say that you didn't decide that normal dead would turn into zombies until later, and if anyone complains just tell them to shove it.

Anyways thanks for the great comic, keep up the good work.

Chris Johnston

**If you'll notice... EVERY SINGLE dead, non-moving body that has appeared in this book since the beginning has had a head injury destroying the brain. That family in particular was shot in the head by the father and then he shot himself. Look again... this was all planned from the beginning.**

Dear Crew,

First of all let me get the obligatory "this comic is incredible" out of the way, this comic is incredible. I am a big fan of your writing Kirkman, you don't mind me calling you that, do you? You, your crew, and your comics are a constant topic of conversation between my friends and I. Me, being relatively new to this whole comic world (I've been into it for a year), have never had to face the horrors of waiting for an issue to come out. One reason is that a lot of comics I initially read were in trade form, and another is that I never really "got into" a series like I did until I picked up the Walking Dead.

I really love your stuff, Kirkman. I picked up Invincible and Battle Pope. I wrote a letter to Battle Pope, not realizing that that series was an old one, and my letter had no chance of making it to print. I felt like an idiot when my veteran comic book friend told me I was an idiot for not realizing that. I digress, Kirkman, I just wanted you to know that I went through a lot of being angry at you as well. I went through all these stages of hating how delayed this book got, one reason is because comic books are really the only silver lining in my lame-ass customer slave existence, and not getting my favorite comic book (along with Invincible) "on time" was not cool to me. I wanted to post on your forum and give you a piece of my mind...but then I realized you must have so much other things going on. You've got a life, just like anybody else, and I have come to peace with the fact that if quality is what you consistently produce, then I can wait. I just wanted to say I was wrong, and I'm sorry for yelling your name every time your books were delayed.

**I do apologize for that. We will be shipping on book a month like clockwork from this point on. So those days should be behind us. I do still maintain that the delays this title has suffered have not been that severe... we've should be shipping issue 36 in October and we'll be shipping issue 33. That means we've lost three months in THREE YEARS. But yeah, we'll be doing better now.**

As far as a question with where this comic book is going: Is Carl going to go crazy as he grows up? I mean, he's shot a man, zombies, been shot, has threatened to shoot others... and his dad is going slightly off the tilt...what sort of man could Carl become? From a psychologists standpoint, the boy has been through a lot, at the very least he might develop a twitch, but he stays really calm...what's up with that?

**Carl has had a rough life... that will affect him as he gets older. And if all goes according to plan he will eventually get older.**

Oh yeah, and another thing. I'm pretty poor, as I have a pretty nasty comic buying habit (I was buying back issues of this comic on ebay last month...I couldn't pay rent on time last month because of it...I was thinking with all the referrals I have made to people to read your books, maybe I could get reimbursed :) like maybe with an issue #1 and 2? I know this is a long shot, but as long as I have your ear, I thought I may as well ask. You can send it to (**address kept confidential to avoid nutjobs**).

**I'd love to send you free comics but I just don't have that many lying around these days. I've got to stay well stocked for my grandkids... y'know... the little shits who won't give a damn about comics in 30 years.**

P.S. In hopes of proving why my letter should get printed (or at least a part of it) my name is unique and would be a great addition to the letters page, and you don't have too many middle easterners in your letters column (I counted at most 2). Oh yea, just wanted to shout out to my LCS Comicopolis, I love that place.

Pouria Yazdi

**Your name is CRAZY!! A welcome addition to the column.**

**Now I think it's time for me to do a little shilling. I mean... we've got to do something to keep the lights on right?**

**ITEM! INVINCIBLE is still kicking ass and taking names. Issue 34 should be in stores a week after this issue. Lot's of cool stuff going on. Ryan Ottley and Bill Crabtree are doing fantastic work. Give it a look. Also in stores around this time, The hardcover containing issues 14-24 and the TPB containing 25-30. So if you get "INVINCIBLE: The Ultimate Collection" volumes 1 and 2 and the volume 5 TPB you'll just need to get issues 31-34 in back issues and you'll have it all! Hooray!!**

**ITEM! BATTLE POPE is continuing with its monthly reprints. Issue 9, out soon, even includes a new 10-page section that's never been published. So if you're looking for NEW Battle Pope action, this is the only place to get it... at least until next year or so... hint, hint. Honor thy father and mother!**

**ITEM! MARVEL TEAM-UP is kicking into high gear leading up to the super-cool issue 25! The current arc, Freedom Ring is in the middle of it's run, with issue 22 out soon where we introduce the world to IRON MANIAC. It's a hoot! Also in stores soon, Marvel Team-Up Vol. 3: League of Losers, featuring issue 14, the Spider-Man/Invincible team-up! Don't miss it a second time! Eat your vegetables!**

**ITEM! MARVEL ZOMBIES is getting collected in AUGUST in an oversized hardcover the likes of which the world has never seen. It features a brand-spanking-new cover by Arthur Suydam and will even feature EVERY COVER DONE for the series. It also includes the actual comic, written by yours truly with art by Sean Philips. I'm told it's quite good... but who believes my mom anyway? Seeing is believing!**

**ITEM! My run on ULTIMATE X-MEN continues! What does the future hold for Magician? What does Jean Gray do now that she knows what she knows about The Phoenix? All these answers and more questions asked in MAGICAL running through issues 72-74 featuring art by Tom Raney. Fight the power!**

**ITEM! It was just announced that I'm doing yet another series for Marvel. This time it's THE IRREDEEMABLE ANT-MAN! For those of you thinking Ant-Man isn't the coolest character in the world, don't worry, this series is going to be so off the wall you won't even notice. It's going to be a blast. And for those of you who love Ant-Man more than life itself. This is the book for you, we're going to be showing this guy the respect and care he deserves. Also, the art team is Phil Hester, Ande Parks and Bill Crabtree on pencils, inks and colors. So you know it's going to be a SOLID book. Don't count your chickens until they're hatched!**

**That's it for this issue. See you next month!**

**-Robert Kirkman**

PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE!

ISSUE  
34

# WINGBLD

WHAT THE--?!



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